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A JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH

JULES VERNE



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A JOURNEY TO THE
CENTER
OF THE
EARTH

JULES VERNE

GO DOWN THE CRATER
OF SNEFFEL, THAT THE
SHADOW OF SCARTARIS
SOFTLY TOUCHES BEFORE
THE BEGINNING OF JULY,
BRAVE TRAVELLER, AND
YOU WILL COME TO THE
CENTER OF THE EARTH.
I DID IT.

*Arne
Saknussemm*

THIS WAS THE MESSAGE THAT FELL OUT OF AN OLD ICELANDIC BOOK MY UNCLE, PROFESSOR OTTO LOENBROCK, AND I WERE EXAMINING. IT WAS MAY 24, 1863, AND WE WERE IN MY UNCLE'S HOME IN HAMBURG, GERMANY.

WHO IS ARNE SAKNUSSEMM, UNCLE?

HE WAS A GREAT ICELANDIC SCIENTIST, AXEL. HE LIVED IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY.

BUT WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? WHAT ARE SNEFFEL AND SCARTARIS?

SNEFFEL IS AN EXTINCT VOLCANO IN ICELAND. SCARTARIS IS THE NAME OF ONE OF ITS PEAKS.

AND WHAT'S THIS ABOUT THE BEGINNING OF JULY?

BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF JULY, SCARTARIS MUST CAST ITS SHADOW OVER THE OPENING OF THE CRATER THAT LED SAKNUSSEMM TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH.

BUT SUCH A JOURNEY WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE! SCIENCE TELLS US THAT THE DEEPER YOU GO INTO THE EARTH, THE HOTTER IT BECOMES. AT THE CENTER OF THE EARTH, IT MUST BE 20,000 DEGREES.

THAT THEORY HAS NEVER BEEN PROVEN, BUT, LIKE ARNE SAKNUSSEMM, LET US GO AND FIND OUT FOR OURSELVES.



OF COURSE I'M SERIOUS. GO UP AND PACK MY BAG.



YES. AND PACK YOUR OWN, AS WELL.

THE NEXT FEW DAYS WERE BUSY ONES. OUR HOUSE WAS JAMMED WITH LADDERS, TORCHES, PICKAXES, SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT AND FOOD MY UNCLE HAD OBTAINED FOR THE TRIP.

THIS IS FANTASTIC! NO ONE IN HIS RIGHT MIND WOULD DO THIS.



SOON ALL WAS READY. I SAID GOODBY TO MY LOVE, GRANDPA, MY UNCLE'S HAND.

GO, DEAR AXEL, AND RETURN TO MAKE ME YOUR WIFE.



RELUCTANTLY I TOOK MY PLACE IN THE CARRIAGE, AND THE HORSES DROVE INTO A GALLOP.



AFTER SEVERAL WEEKS OF TRAVEL BY CARRIAGE, TRAIN AND BOAT, WE FINALLY REACHED ICELAND.

THERE IS MOUNT S-EFFEL.



WE SOON FOUND A GUIDE, AN ICELANDER WHO COULD SPEAK NO ENGLISH.

THIS IS HANS. HE WILL BE WITH US FOR OUR ENTIRE JOURNEY.



WITH HANS IN THE LEAD, WE CLIMBED MOUNT S-EFFEL. WE WERE NEAR THE TOP WHEN

ASTONISH!



IT IS A WHIRLWIND OF DUST AND STONES COME QUICKLY!



WE SCRAMBLED OUT OF THE WAY JUST IN TIME.



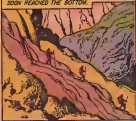
HOURS LATER, WE REACHED THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN.

NOW, DOWN INTO THE VOLCANO!

WE MIGHT AS WELL CLIMB INTO A LOADED BLUNDERBUSS.



BUT I COULD NOT BACK OUT SO DOWN WE WENT, CAREFULLY PICKING OUR WAY. WE SOON REACHED THE BOTTOM.



AYEL, LOOK! HERE IS THE NAME ARNE SAKNUSSEYM! WE ARE ON THE RIGHT TRACK.



AND SEE, THERE ARE THREE OPENINGS. WE WILL GO DOWN THE ONE ON WHICH THE SHADOW OF SCARTARIS FALLS.



THE SHARP SHADOW OF SCARTARIS FELL ON THE CENTRAL OPENING.

THAT'S THE ONE! TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH!



ONE LOOK INTO THE HOLE MADE MY HAIR STAND ON END.



BUT USING A ROPE,
WE CLIMBED
DOWN



TEN HOURS AND
2,000 FEET
LATER

WE ARE AT
THE BOTTOM
OF THE
CHIMNEY.
THERE IS A
PASSAGE TO
THE RIGHT,
BUT WE
SHALL
INSPECT IT
TOMORROW.



THE NEXT
MORNING

WELL, AXEL, DID YOU
EVER PASS A MORE
RESTFUL NIGHT? NOW
SET UP. I AM ANXIOUS
TO SEE WHAT IS AHEAD



AFTER BREAKFAST,
MY UNCLE LIT
HIS LAMP AND
PLUNGED INTO THE
DARK CORRIDOR. I
FOLLOWED, BUT ONLY
AFTER TAKING A LAST
LOOK AT THE SPIES
OF ICELAND



WE DESCENDED ALL DAY, TRAVELLING SOUTH-EAST. THAT NIGHT

WE ARE NEARLY OUT OF WATER, UNCLE.

NEVER MIND WE SHALL SOON FIND UNDERGROUND SPRINGS.



THE NEXT DAY WE CONTINUED OUR DESCENT UNTIL

WHICH TUNNEL SHOULD WE TAKE?

WE CAN ONLY RELY ON CHANCE, LET US TAKE THE EASTERN ONE.



WE WALKED FOR SEVERAL DAYS. FINALLY

IT'S A DEAD END!

SANNUSKOMA NEVER CAME THIS WAY. WE MUST GO BACK TO THE FORK AND TAKE THE OTHER TUNNEL.



YES, IF WE HAVE ENOUGH STRENGTH.

AND WHY SHOULDN'T WE?



BECAUSE TOMORROW WE SHALL HAVE NO MORE WATER!



THE TRIP BACK TOOK THREE TERRIBLE DAYS



AT LAST, HALF DEAD WITH THIRST, WE REACHED THE FURN



POOR BOY, DRINK!



IT IS ONLY A MOUTHFUL OF WATER—THE LAST I KEPT IT FOR YOU.

IT WAS SUFFICIENT TO RESTORE ME TO LIFE



THANK YOU, UNCLE, NOW LET US TRY TO GET BACK TO THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH



WE STARTED DOWN THE WESTERN PASSAGE, BUT TOWARDS EVENING, MY STRENGTH GAVE OUT





COMPLETELY RECOVERED, HE CONTINUED OUR JOURNEY.

ACCORDING TO MY CALCULATIONS, WE HAVE GONE 258 MILES FROM OUR STARTING POINT AND FORTY-EIGHT MILES DOWN INTO THE EARTH.

THEN WE ARE NO LONGER UNDER ICELAND, BUT UNDER THE OPEN SEA. THE ATLANTIC OCEAN IS OVER OUR HEADS!

NEVER FEAR. THE ROOF WON'T COME IN ON YOU.

IF WE HAVE GONE DOWN FORTY-EIGHT MILES, THE TEMPERATURE HERE OUGHT TO BE 1,500 DEGREES. YET IT IS ONLY 27.6 DEGREES.

THAT PROVES MY POINT. THE CENTER OF THE EARTH IS NOT HOT, MY BOY.

WE'RE STILL A LONG WAY FROM THE CENTER, UNCLE. AT THE RATE WE ARE GOING, IT WILL TAKE US OVER FIVE YEARS TO GET THERE.

WHAT SARNUSSHEM HAS DONE WE CAN DO!

WE RESUMED OUR DESCENT. ONE DAY, I TOOK THE LEAD.



ALL AT ONCE, I TURNED TO SPEAK TO THE OTHERS.

HELLO? WHERE ARE THEY?



I MUST HAVE BEEN GOING TOO FAST. I'LL WALK BACK AND MEET THEM.



UNCLE! HANS!



THERE WAS NO ANSWER. A SHIVER RAN THROUGH MY BODY.

THERE IS ONLY ONE ROUTE, AND IT IS MARKED BY THE RIVER. I HAVE ONLY TO FOLLOW THE RIVER BACK.



I CROUCHED DOWN TO PUT MY HANDS IN THE RIVER!

IT IS NOT HERE!



I'M LOST!
BURIED ALIVE!



YET I MUST KEEP CALM. I PROBABLY LOST
THEM AT A FORK IN THE TUNNEL. I WILL
TURN BACK AND FIND THE FORK.



I BEGAN TO ASCEND THE TUNNEL.

THE SLOPE IS STEEPER
THAN I REMEMBER.



BUT WHAT
IS THIS?



IT IS A DEAD END!
ALL IS LOST!



THEN A NEW TERROR POSSESSED ME.

MY LAMP IS GOING OUT.
I MUST HAVE DAMAGED IT.



I WATCHED THE CURRENT FADE.



**WHEN I WAS ALONE IN THE
ABSOLUTE DARKNESS, I
LOST MY HEAD. I BROKE
INTO MAD FLIGHT.**



**I SMASHED INTO ROCKS,
FELL, SCRAMBLED
BLEEDING TO MY FEET.**



**FINALLY, I COLLAPSED IN
AN UNCONSCIOUS HEAP.**



WHEN I CAME TO, I TRIED TO GET UP, BUT I SUCCEEDED ONLY IN ROLLING OVER.



SUDDENLY I SEEMED TO HEAR A FEW MUFFLED WORDS.

IT IS A
HALLUCINATION!



NO, SOMEONE IS TALKING. IT MUST BE
UNCLE AND HANS, FOR WHAT OTHER MEN
WOULD BE BURIED NINETY MILES
UNDERGROUND?



THIS TUNNEL MUST HAVE SOME PECULIAR
ABILITY TO CONDUCT SOUND PERHAPS THEY
WILL BE ABLE TO HEAR ME.



UNCLE
LIDENROCK!





I STARTED OFF, SOMETIMES WALKING,
SOMETIMES CRAWLING.



SUDDENLY, I FELT MYSELF FALLING. MY
HEAD STRUCK A ROCK AND I LOST
CONSCIOUSNESS.



WHEN I AWOKE

HE IS ALIVE!
THANK GOD!



UNCLE, I AM SO GLAD
TO SEE YOU AND
HANG AGAIN.



BUT WHERE ARE WE? I SEEM
TO SEE LIGHT AND HEAR THE
SOUND OF WIND AND SURF.



I CANNOT EXPLAIN IT, BUT YOU WILL SEE FOR YOURSELF WHEN YOU ARE WELL ENOUGH TO GO INTO THE OPEN AIR.

OPEN AIR?

YES. IT MIGHT CAUSE YOU TO HAVE A RELAPSE, WHICH WOULD DELAY OUR CROSSING.

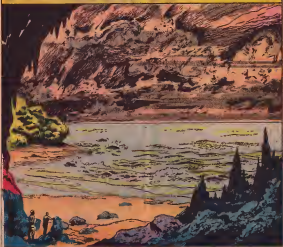
CROSSING?

YES. WE WILL SET SAIL TOMORROW.

BURSTING WITH CURIOSITY, I INSISTED ON GOING TO THE EXIT OF THE GROTT.

ONCE THERE, I STARED IN AMAZEMENT.

BEFORE HE WAS A TREMENDOUS CAVITY WITH A REAL UNDERGROUND OCEAN WHICH STRETCHED FURTHER THAN THE EYE COULD SEE.



IT'S FANTASTIC! WHERE DOES THE LIGHT COME FROM?

I IMAGINE IT IS OF ELECTRICAL ORIGIN



ARE YOU STRONG ENOUGH FOR A LITTLE WALK?

I SHOULD LIKE NOTHING BETTER



WE STROLLED ALONG THE SHORE.

WHAT ARE THOSE
STRANGE TREES?

THEY ARE NOT TREES, BUT MUSHROOMS.
THEY HAVE GROWN SO TALL BECAUSE OF
THE WARMTH AND DAMPNESS DOWN HERE.



THE SAME THING HAS HAPPENED TO THESE.
THEY ARE HUMBLE SHRUBS IN THE UPPER
WORLD, BUT LOOK AT THEM HERE!



AND SEE WHAT ELSE WE FIND THE BONES OF
PREHISTORIC ANIMALS ARE SCATTERED OVER
THE GROUND.



YES. HUGE, TERRIBLE MONSTERS
ONCE LIVED ON THESE SHORES.



PERHAPS ONE OF THEM IS
STILL WANDERING ABOUT.



LATER, WE RETURNED TO OUR GROTTO.

HOW FAR DO YOU CALCULATE WE HAVE COME?

WE ARE ABOUT ONE HUNDRED MILES FROM ICELAND.



DO YOU PLAN TO DIVE HEADLONG INTO THE OCEAN TO CONTINUE YOUR JOURNEY?

NO, WE WILL CROSS THE OCEAN AND FIND A NEW PASSAGE DOWNWARDS ON THE OTHER SIDE.



BUT OUR WAY IS NOW BLOCKED BY THE OCEAN. SHOULDN'T WE TURN BACK?

CERTAINLY NOT!



FINE, AND UPON WHAT SHIP SHALL WE BOOK PASSAGE?



NOT A SHIP, MY BOY, BUT A GOOD, SOLID RAFT, WHICH HANS IS NOW MAKING.





OUR JOURNEY WENT WELL, BUT AFTER SEVERAL DAYS MY UNCLE BEGAN TO GROW RESTLESS.

HAVE PATIENCE, UNCLE. WE ARE MAKING GOOD PROGRESS.

IT IS NOT THAT OUR PROGRESS IS TOO SLOW, BUT THAT THE SEA IS TOO BIG.



WE HAVE TRAVELLED MORE THAN THREE HUNDRED MILES, YET THE OPPOSITE SHORE IS NOT EVEN IN SIGHT. WE ARE LOSING TIME BECAUSE WE ARE NOT MAKING ANY PROGRESS DOWNWARDS.



TO TRY TO FIND OUT THE DEPTH OF THE SEA, WE LET DOWN OUR HEAVIEST PICK ON A ROPE. WHEN WE PULLED IT IN

WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THESE STRANGE MARKS?

TEETH!



THE PICK IS BITTEN HALF THROUGH. PERHAPS WE HAVE DISTURBED SOME MARINE ANIMAL IN ITS LAIR.



I CHECKED OUR GUNS, THEN TURNED TO STARE FEARFULLY AT THE OCEAN.

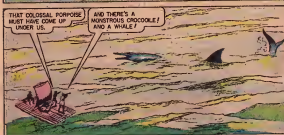


FINALLY I FELL ASLEEP, BUT I WAS AWAKENED BY A TREMENDOUS JOLT.



THAT COLLOSSAL PORPOISE
MUST HAVE COME UP
UNDER US.

AND THERE'S A
MONSTROUS CROCODILE!
AND A WHALE!



**HANS TRIED TO CHANGE COURSE AND
FLEE BUT**

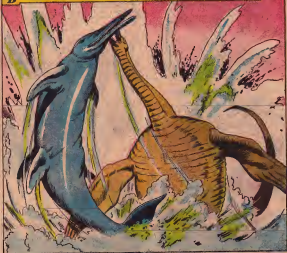
OUR WAY IS BLOCKED BY THAT
GIGANTIC TURTLE AND THAT
SEA SERPENT!



THEY ARE COMING NEARER THEY
WILL SOON BE UPON US!



BUT THE MONSTERS PASSED US AND ATTACKED EACH OTHER WITH UNDESCRIBABLE FURY.



WE WATCHED, HORRIFIED

HOW MANY
ARE THERE?

THERE ARE
ONLY TWO.



BUT WE
SAW MANY.

NO. ONE IS AN ICTHYOSAURUS,
WHICH HAS THE BACK OF A
PORPOISE, THE HEAD OF A
CROCODILE AND THE FINS OF
A WHALE. THE OTHER IS A
PLESIOSAURUS, A SERPENT WITH
A SHELL LIKE A TURTLE'S.



FOR TWO HOURS THE ANIMALS FOUGHT, CHURNING UP MOUNTAINOUS WAVES WHICH THREATENED TO CAPSIZING US.



FINALLY LOCKED TOGETHER, THEY DISAPPEARED BENEATH THE SURFACE OF THE SEA.



THEN AN ENORMOUS HEAD SHOT UP.

THE PLESIOSAURUS IS MORTALLY WOUNDED.



IN A FEW MINUTES

IT'S DEAD. LET US HOPE ITS CONQUEROR HAS RETURNED TO HIS SUBMARINE HERE.



WE DREW RAPIDLY AWAY FROM THE SCENE OF THE STRUGGLE. SEVERAL DAYS PASSED QUIETLY THEN

THE AIR IS FULL OF ELECTRICITY, AND THE CLOUDS ARE BUILDING UP. WE ARE IN FOR A STORM.



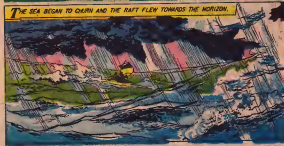
FOR A TIME, THE RAFT FLOATED MOTIONLESS ON A DULL SEA.



FINALLY, THE STORM HIT.



THE SEA BEGAN TO GARRN AND THE RAFT FLEW TOWARDS THE HORIZON.



CLAPS OF THUNDER
FOLLOWED BOLTS OF
LIGHTNING



COLUMNS OF WATER
LEAPED UP AND FELL
BACK AS FOAM.



WAVES WASHED OVER
OUR HEADS.



FOR THREE DAYS THE
STORM RAGED.

I FEAR WE
ARE LOST.

THEN A DISK OF FIRE
CARRIED OFF OUR MAST
AND SAIL.

AND BEGAN TO SPIN
SLOWLY AROUND US.



WE SAT FROZEN WITH TERROR AS IT
LIGHTLY TOUCHED OUR GUNPOWDER

WE WILL BE
BLOWN UP!



BUT IT MOVED AWAY AND CAME TOWARDS
MY FOOT.



I SNATCHED MY FOOT AWAY JUST IN TIME

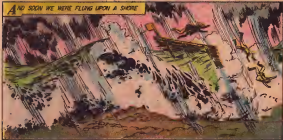


THEN I FAINTED WHEN I CAME TO.

THERE IS A NEW NOISE. IT SOUNDS
LIKE THE SEAS ARE BREAKING
UPON ROCKS.



AND SOON WE WERE FLYING UPON A SHORE



WE CRAWLED UNDER SOME SHELTERING ROCKS AND FELL ASLEEP. WHEN WE AWOK, THE STORM HAD PASSED.



WE WALKED INLAND AND PRESENTLY FOUND OURSELVES ON A PLAIN STREWED WITH THE BONES OF EXTINCT ANIMALS.

IT'S ASTOUNDING, AXEL. HERE IS A WHOLE HISTORY OF ANIMAL LIFE.



AND LOOK! HERE IS A HUMAN SKULL!



WE KEPT WALKING UNTIL WE CAME TO A HUGE FOREST.

LET'S GO BACK THERE MIGHT BE A LIVE ANIMAL ABOUT

NONSENSE COME ON!

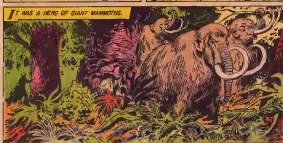


I FOLLOWED FEARFULLY THEN

UNCLE, LOOK OVER THERE!



IT WAS A HERD OF GIANT MAMMOTS.



COME, LET'S HAVE
A CLOSER LOOK.

NO, IT'S TOO DANGEROUS.
NO MAN WOULD DARE
GO NEAR THEM.



NO MAN? BUT YOU ARE
MISTAKEN, AXEL, LOOK
OVER THERE!



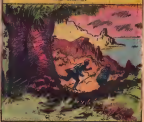
IT WAS A PREHISTORIC MAN--AT LEAST TWELVE FEET TALL.



WE MUST GET
AWAY BEFORE
HE SEES US.



WE RAN LIKE MADMEN UNTIL WE REACHED
THE SHORE.



THERE WE RESUMED OUR SEARCH FOR A PASSAGE THAT WOULD LEAD DOWNWARDS

THERE SHOULD BE ONE
HERE SOMEWHERE. YET
I SEE NOTHING

BUT I SEE
SOMETHING!



HOW DID IT GET HERE, UNLESS
UNLESS SOMEONE WAS HERE BEFORE US



I PICKED UP A RUSTY KNIFE.

HOW STRANGE! IT IS A KNIFE
SUCH AS ICELANDERS OFTEN
CARRY, BUT IT MUST BE
SEVERAL HUNDRED YEARS OLD



OF COURSE! IT BELONGED TO
ARNE SAMNUSSENN! PERHAPS
HE USED IT TO CARVE
A MESSAGE!



WE EXAMINED THE ROCK WALL CAREFULLY SOON

HERE IS A TUNNEL!

AND LOOK AT THIS WALL!



THE INITIALS A.S.—FOR ARNE SAKNUSSEEM! THIS IS THE PATH THAT WILL TAKE US TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH.



NOW I WAS FIRED WITH ENTHUSIASM.

LET US GO!

WAIT! FIRST WE MUST GO BACK TO HANS AND BRING THE RAFT AROUND TO THIS PLACE



AND THEN WE SHALL GO DOWN! WE HAVE ONLY 4,500 MILES MORE TO GO.

WHY, THERE'S NOTHING TO IT!



WE RETURNED TO HAAS, LOADED THE PART
AND SAILED BACK TO OUR TUNNEL.

NOW LET US EXAMINE
THIS NEW PASSAGE.



WE HAD GONE ONLY A FEW STEPS WHEN

THE WAY IS
BLOCKED!



SEARCHED FOR ANOTHER PASSAGEWAY BUT WE FOUND NONE.

WAS SAKHUSSEMM ALSO
STOPPED BY THIS ROCK?

NO, IT MUST HAVE FALLEN AND CLOSED
THE TUNNEL LONG AFTER SAKHUSSEMM
PASSED THIS WAY.



THEN WE MUST OPEN
IT—PERHAPS WITH
A PICKAXE.

NO, IT'S TOO HARD
FOR A PICKAXE.



LET'S BLOW IT TO
PIECES WITH GUNPOWDER!

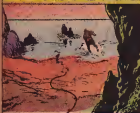


WE HOLLOWED OUT A HOLE IN THE ROCK FOR THE GUNPOWDER AND MADE A LONG FUSE.

AFTER YOU LIGHT THE FUSE, JOIN US ON THE RAFT. WE WILL HEAD OUT TO SEA TO AVOID ANY DANGER FROM THE EXPLOSION.



MY UNCLE AND HANS GOT ON THE RAFT. I LIT THE FUSE AND RACED TOWARDS THEM.



SAFE AT SEA, WE WAITED BREATHLESSLY.

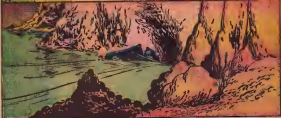
THREE, TWO, ONE, NOW!



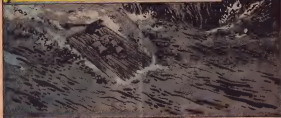
WITH A GREAT ROAR THE SHAPE OF THE CLIFF CHANGED AND A HUGE HOLE OPENED ALONG THE SHORE.



WE WERE SWEPT INTO THE HOLE AND FELT OURSELVES SWIRLING DOWN INTO DARKNESS.



FOR SEVERAL HOURS WE WERE CARRIED ALONG AT A TREMENDOUS SPEED.



SUDDENLY THE RAFT STOPPED, AND A FLOOD OF WATER SPILLED OVER US.



HOWEVER, IN A FEW SECONDS WE WERE
ONCE MORE IN FRESH AIR.



THEN

WE ARE
GOING UP

WHAT? ARE
YOU SURE?



YES, WE ARE IN A SORT OF A WELL. THE
WATER, HAVING REACHED BOTTOM, IS NOW
GOING UP AGAIN, AND WE ARE
GOING UP WITH IT.



BUT WHERE
WILL IT
TAKE US?

I DON'T KNOW AS WE MUST
BE READY FOR ANYTHING,
LET US MAKE OURSELVES
STRONGER BY EATING
SOMETHING.



I QUICKLY SEARCHED THE BAG.

OUR PROVISIONS ARE GONE. THERE
IS ONLY SOME DRIED MEAT FOR
THE THREE OF US.



LET US EAT IT, THEN. IT MAY
BE OUR LAST MEAL, BUT IT
WILL GIVE US STRENGTH TO
MEET THE END.



WE ARE SILENTLY, SOMEWHAT REVVED,
I BEGAN TO LOOK ABOUT.

UNCLE, THIS
ROCK IS HOT!



AND THE WATER
BENEATH US IS
BOILING!



WE HEARD SOUNDS LIKE DISTANT EXPLOSIONS.

THE WALLS
ARE
SHAKING!



UNCLE, WE
ARE LOST!

NOW WHAT IS
THE MATTER
WITH YOU?



WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH ME? WHY, CAN'T YOU SEE WE ARE IN AN EARTHQUAKE?

NO, WE ARE NOT IN AN EARTHQUAKE. WE ARE IN THE CHIMNEY OF AN ACTIVE VOLCANO. IT MAY BE THE BEST THING THAT COULD HAPPEN TO US.



ARE YOU MAD?

NO, THIS IS OUR ONLY HOPE OF GETTING TO THE SURFACE AGAIN.



WE WERE INDEED BEING ERUPTED

THE WATER HAS TURNED TO LAVA.



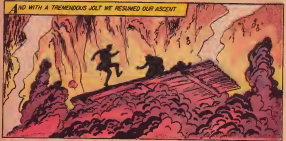
THEN, SUDDENLY, WE STOPPED.

HAS THE RAFT CAUGHT ON A ROCK?

NO, THIS VOLCANO IS ONE WHICH ERUPTS EVERY FIFTEEN MINUTES. WE WILL SOON START AGAIN.



AND WITH A TREMENDOUS JOLT WE RESUMED OUR ASCENT



**THE RUSH OF STEILING AIR LEFT ME
BREATHELESS**



**SHOCK FOLLOWED SHOCK, AND I BEGAN TO
LOSE MY SENSES**



**THE RAFT SEEMED TO BE TURNING ROUND
AND ROUND WITH ROARING FIRE ON
EVERY SIDE.**



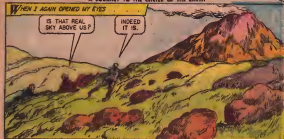
**THE LAST THING I REMEMBER WAS HANGING
FACE, LIT BY THE BRIGHT RED OF THE
FIRE, THEN I LOST CONSCIOUSNESS.**



WHEN I AGAIN OPENED MY EYES

IS THAT REAL
SKY ABOVE US?

INDEED
IT IS.



BUT WHERE
ARE WE?

ON A MOUNTAIN TOP,
BUT IN WHAT COUNTRY,
I DON'T KNOW.



IT CERTAINLY DOESN'T
LOOK LIKE ICELAND.

NO, IT DOESN'T. LET
US GO DOWN AND
FIND OUT WHERE
WE ARE.



AT THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAIN WE MET
A CHILD.

WHERE ARE
WE, BOY?

STROMOLI.



WHAT A JOURNEY! WE STARTED OUT IN
ICELAND AND WE END UP OVER 3,000 MILES
AWAY ON AN ISLAND IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN SEA!



THE PEOPLE OF STROMBOLI RECEIVED US VERY KINDLY.

HERE ARE CLOTHES.

COME EAT IN MY HOUSE.



AFTER A FEW DAYS REST WE RETURNED TO HAMBURG.

DEAR AXEL, YOU ARE A HERO NOW.



WE SADLY SAID FAREWELL TO HANS, WHO RETURNED TO ICELAND.

WE WILL NEVER FORGET YOU.



THE WHOLE WORLD FOUND OUT ABOUT OUR EXPEDITION MY UNCLE BECAME FAMOUS.



AND I DREAMT THE HAPPIEST OF DREAMS, FOR GRABSEN BECAME MY WIFE.



THE END

NOW THAT YOU HAVE READ THE CLASSICS Illustrated EDITION, DON'T MISS THE ADDED ENJOYMENT OF READING THE ORIGINAL, OBTAINABLE AT YOUR SCHOOL OR PUBLIC LIBRARY.

JULES VERNE

WHEN Jules Verne was a young boy, he once wrote, "I want to go adventuring in strange places—places with palm leaves and red and green birds and feathery leaves taller than men, growing in mysterious jungles and saying that no one has ever explored, with echoes and secret passageways."

Verne's love of adventure caused him to run away from home when he was a boy. He paid a cabin boy on a ship to change places with him. He sailed off hoping to see all the wonderful places he had dreamed about. But his aboard ship was not as exciting as he thought it would be. He had to spend most of his time below deck serving food to the crew, clearing tables and washing dishes. When the ship reached a port, his father was there to take him home. The boy was rebuffed.

Verne spent his childhood in Nantes, France, where he had been born on February 8, 1828. He was very imaginative and liked to amuse himself and his friends by drawing pictures and plans of things considered very strange then, such as horseless carriages driven by steam. He was also athletic and he enjoyed walking around on cliffs.

Verne liked to write adventure stories and plays but did not tell his father about them because he knew he would not be pleased. His father was a very successful lawyer and he wanted his son to be a lawyer, too. When Verne was sixteen, he began to study law in his father's office.

When he was ready to take his first law examination, he went to Paris. He passed the examination and went back home. But he decided that one day he would return to Paris to live and write.



In November, 1848, he made a second trip to Paris for another law examination. This time he met Alexandre Dumas and the two men became friends.

Dumas read Verne's plays and decided to produce one.

This was very exciting for Verne and gave him the encouragement he needed.

Even though he passed his law examination, he wrote to his father, "I am not coming home, I am going to devote myself to literature. I may become a good writer, but I would never be anything but a poor lawyer."

Life in Paris was a struggle for Verne. In order to earn money, he gave lessons to young law students. He worked hard at his writing but did not achieve any success at first. He married in 1857 and it was difficult for him to support his wife, who was a widow with two children.

Finally, in 1863, with the publication of *Five Weeks in a Balloon*, he became famous. The book was very popular and Verne was hailed as an outstanding young author.

After that, he wrote many books including *Around the World in Eighty Days*, *From the Earth to the Moon*, *A Journey to the Center of the Earth*, *Michael Strogoff* and *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*.

Before Verne wrote a book, he read everything he could find on the subject about which he was going to write. He had a great deal of imagination, which made him a master at science fiction. He predicted the invention of the unadorned bulb, the submarine and the electric clock, among other things.

He was honored by the French Academy and received the Legion of Honor medal for his writings. He died, prosperous and successful, in 1905.

THE STORY OF GREAT BRITAIN

PART 12: GREAT BRITAIN TODAY

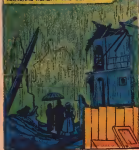
WAR AND CHANGE HAVE MARKED THE HISTORY OF GREAT BRITAIN SINCE 1900. IN WORLD WAR I, WORLD WAR II AND THE KOREAN WAR, BRITISH AND AMERICANS FOUGHT SIDE BY SIDE.



IT WAS DURING WORLD WAR II THAT PRIME MINISTER WINSTON CHURCHILL AND PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT BROUGHT FORTH THE ATLANTIC CHARTER WITH ITS FOUR FREEDOMS—FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND RELIGION AND FREEDOM FROM WANT AND FEAR.



WORLD WAR II LOSSES WERE HEAVY IN BRITAIN. ONE-FOURTH OF THE COUNTRY'S NATIONAL WEALTH WAS DESTROYED.



BUT BRITAIN RECOVERED, AND THERE WAS PROGRESS IN SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY. BRITAIN WAS THE FIRST COUNTRY TO BUILD AN ATOMIC POWER PLANT FOR ELECTRICITY. SHE ALSO PIONEERED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF JET PLANES.



LIFE IN BRITAIN TODAY CENTERS IN THE BUSTLING CITIES, WHERE MOST OF THE PEOPLE LIVE AND WORK.



SOME BRITONS, HOWEVER, STILL LIVE IN QUIET VILLAGES, SOMETIMES IN HOUSES HUNDREDS OF YEARS OLD.



FOR RELAXATION, MOST OF THE PEOPLE GO TO THE SEASHORE, NO SPOT IN THE COUNTRY IS MORE THAN 100 MILES FROM THE SEA.



THROUGH BRITAIN IS A REPUBLIC, THE LOVE AND LOYALTY OF THE PEOPLE RESIDE IN THE ROYAL FAMILY.



BRTAIN'S QUEEN, ELIZABETH II, IS A DESCENDANT OF WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR. SHE IS THE SYMBOL OF THE LONG LINE OF HISTORY THAT IS THE STORY OF GREAT BRITAIN.



THIS IS THE LAST OF TWELVE FEATURES ON THE HISTORY OF GREAT BRITAIN.

CAVE EXPLORING

IN THE YEAR 1940, four boys and a dog were walking across a field in France when suddenly the dog disappeared. The boys looked and looked but did not see him anywhere. Finally, they found what had happened. There, beside a bush, was a hole in the ground through which the dog had dropped. The boys went down after him and found themselves in a deep cave. One of them had a flashlight and they started exploring. They found paintings of stags and horses on the walls and ceilings. They had discovered a cave in which prehistoric man had lived.

Although people have not yet reached the center of the earth, as they try to in Jules Verne's book, *A Journey to the Center of the Earth*, they have gone down quite far into caves and discovered many things. Cave scientists, who are called spelunkologists, go far underground to discover new things about the earth, rocks, plants, animals and people of long ago.

Many people explore caves just for the fun of it. These people are called spelunkers. They think of caving as an adventurous and thrilling hobby. A group of spelunkers set out in 1954, near Grenoble, France, to go farther into the earth, than anyone ever had before.

The caves were very wet and icy cold. The spelunkers had to grease their bodies and wear warm clothing topped by waterproof suits. The downward climb was very dangerous. They went slowly, lowering themselves by extending ladders into the large holes in the earth. They waded over frozen streams and climbed over huge rocks on the underground floor. The passages were often so narrow that they could barely squeeze through.

But they were successful. They climbed down 3,471 feet, breaking all existing records. Two weeks later, they returned to the

caves and broke their own record by going down 2,963 feet, more than half a mile into the earth.

Spelunking is a hobby not only in France. In the summer of 1954, eleven adventurous spelunkers set out to explore Schoolhouse Cave in West Virginia. They wanted to examine a level of the cave that had never been reached. The beginning of their descent was easy, but then they had to go through a very cold waterfall. On the other side of it was a deep hole. By dropping small rocks into the hole and counting the time that went by before they hit bottom, the cavers knew that the downward shaft was a long one. They began lowering themselves by ropes. Finally, after going down 130 feet, or about the height of a twelve story apartment house, they reached bottom. They remained below, exploring the cave, for twenty-one hours.

Caving can be very dangerous and not all cave explorers return to the surface. A Frenchman named Marcel Loubens went exploring with a group of cavers in France a few years ago. While in the cave, Loubens thought he had found the entrance of an enormous chamber. His companions decided to investigate. Since Loubens was famous among cavers, he decided to return to the surface and let the others take the credit for discovering the chamber. As he was being raised by cable, the clamp supporting his harness strap broke and he plunged down upon the rocks. He was very badly injured and died some hours later. He was buried in the cave. Later, his companions explored the large chamber and named it after him.

The safest way to explore a cave is as a tourist. Many caves have been equipped with steps, paths, ladders and electric lights. Visitors can view in comfort and safety the wonders that lie beneath the earth's surface.

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